



HSA Requirements – School Gardens

School Garden Grants

Under section 102 of the HSA, OSSE shall make grants available to support school gardens through a competitive process to schools and other organizations.

School Gardens Program

Under section 503 of the HSA, OSSE is to establish a School Gardens Program which shall:

- Coordinate the efforts of community organizations and District agencies, as well as the District of Columbia Public Schools and the Public Charter School Board to establish gardens as integral components of public schools and public charter schools;
- Establish and convene a Garden Advisory Committee composed of community organizations, District government agencies, and other interested persons;
- Collect data on location and types of school gardens;
- Provide horticultural guidance and technical assistance to schools;
- Coordinate curricula for school gardens and related projects;
- Provide training, support, and assistance to school gardens;
- Assist schools in receiving certification as U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools;
- Work with UDC to provide technical expertise, curricula, and soil testing for schools gardens; and
- Establish a demonstration compost pile when feasible.

Mandatory Reporting

Under section 503 of the HSA, on or before June 30 of each year, the School Gardens Program shall issue a report to the Mayor, the Council, and the Healthy Youth and Schools Commission about the state of school gardens in the District of Columbia, plans for expanding them, and recommendations for improving the program.